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PERSHING TO LEAD TROOPS IN FRANCE

AMERICAN GENERAL WILL COMMAND EXPEDITION ACROSS WATERS.

REGULARS TO GO AT ONCE

America's Answer to France's Appeal.—Troops Go at Earliest Practicable Date.—Pershing to Precede Soldiers.

Washington.—President Wilson ordered that a division of regular troops, commanded by Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing, be sent to France at the earliest practicable date.

This is the answer of America to France's plea that the Stars and Stripes be carried to the fighting front without delay to hearten the soldiers battling there with concrete evidence that a powerful Ally has come to their support against German aggression.

Announcement of the order followed signing of the selective draft war army bill by the President and the issuance of a statement that under the advice of military experts on both sides of the water, the President could not employ volunteers nor avail himself of the "fine vigor and enthusiasm" of former President Roosevelt for the expedition.

The army law provides for an ultimate force of approximately 2,000,000 men to back up the first troops to go to the front. When the bill had been signed, the President affixed his name to a proclamation calling upon all men in the country between the ages of 21 and 30, inclusive, to register themselves for military service on June 5, next. The proclamation sets in motion immediately machinery that will enroll and sift 10,000,000 men and pave the way for the selection of the first 500,000 young, efficient soldiers without crippling the industries or commerce of the nation or bringing hardship to those at home.

Orders For Guard.

Even before the bill was signed, the War Department announced that the full strength of the National Guard would be drafted into the United States Army beginning July 15 and concluding August 5. Orders to bring the regiments to full war strength immediately accompanied the notification sent to all governors. A minimum of 329,000 fighting men will be brought to the colors under those orders, supplementing the 293,000 regulars who will be under arms by June 15. The Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee guards will be mobilized July 25.

It is from these forces that the first armies to join General Pershing at the front will be drawn to be followed within a few months by recurring waves from the selective draft armies, the first 500,000 of whom will be mobilized September 1.

COL. ROOSEVELT WON'T BE PERMITTED TO GO

Washington.—Colonel Roosevelt will not be permitted to raise his volunteer expedition to carry the American flag against the Germans in France. On signing the war army bill, President Wilson issued a statement saying that, acting under expert advice from both sides of the water, he would be unable to avail himself at the present stage of the war of the authorization to organize volunteer divisions.

There was talk in army circles of the possibility that a way would be found to use the former president's services in another way, but official comment on the subject was lacking.

Had Trouble Four or Five Years.

Many people suffer from bladder trouble when they can be quickly relieved by W. J. Foley's Kidney Pills. I was bothered with bladder trouble four or five years. It gave me a great deal of pain, I took different medicines, but nothing did me any good until I got Foley's Kidney Pills.

HOMERULE FOR IRELAND IS PUT UP TO IRISHMEN

London.—For the first time in modern history, the destinies of Ireland are to be placed in the hands of the Irishmen alone. The British prime minister, David Lloyd-George, announced to the House of Commons that the government will call a convention of Irishmen to frame a constitution for Ireland, and if Irishmen are able to agree upon any scheme for the administration of their country, will attempt to enact it into legislation.

A Barkeeper's Opinion of Billy Sunday.

Concord Times.

From day to day the New York World prints in a prominent place an article from various persons, many of them of considerable prominence on "What I Think of Billy Sunday." In its issue of Tuesday there is presented the opinion of a man who for more than 15 years has sold liquor over bars in New York, and who attended the Sunday Tabernacle expressly for the purpose of hearing a temperance sermon. Because he is still in the liquor business, his name is not printed, but the World vouches for the fact he is sincere in what he says. The man signs himself "A Veteran Bar tender," and here is what he says:

"I oughtn't knock my own game, maybe, or try to give a black eye to the business that keeps me in food and clothes and a roof over my head, but, take it from me, there's an awful lot in what this fellow Billy Sunday says. I know! I have been back of the bar for a whole lot of years, and I've seen drinking men come and go, but I never saw one of them leave the saloon a better man than he was when he came in it.

"Bill's argument—'It don't get you anything' is about the best I know. I wish I had a dollar for every young fellow I've seen starting out to drink and winding up in trouble. The may have a good time with a couple of cocktails before dinner and a half dozen high-balls before turning in for the night, but they're not having any fun when they sneak up to the bar in the morning and get an absinthe frappe to straighten them out and say to the bartender, 'How do I look, Charley? All right? Do you think I can face the boss in the office?'"

"And they're not very gay when they ask the bartender—as they often do—to slip them a dollar to see them through the day. And many a one does that—'young fellows with good jobs and fine chances in life.

"A man's a boob, a sucker, to get started in the drinking game, I don't know whether Billy Sunday's statistics are right or not about the increased prosperity of a town, and all that, when it's dry. But I do know from what I've seen with my own eyes that for the individual man the booze game is all wrong. It takes his money away from him; it takes his job away from him; it takes his health away from him. Many and many a time in the last few years I've put on a black tie and followed some good fellow's coffin to the grave yard. Maybe he wasn't a souse or a very hard drinker, but the old stuff got him through some disease or weakening that whiskey brought on.

"There's not a bar-tender in New York who has been on the job for a few years but what could tell you all sorts of stories about what happened to the good fellows, and through nothing else than booze. I gave up the stuff myself long ago because I saw what it did to other people. And I think you'll find most bartenders—and most saloon men, too—either do not touch it or else go very light with it. They're wise to what it does.

Billy Sunday is right a bout booze. It would be a good thing for the country if the President or Congress would stop it, for the time of the war, anyhow. And I think if it was stopped that long, it would never come back.

"I don't know how many men in New York Bill will get on the water wagon, but I know he has put a lot there already. The more the merrier. The end of

MARINE CORPS TO GO WITH PERSHING

ALL THREE ARMS OF AMERICAN FIGHTING FORCES TO THE FIRING LINE.

APPROXIMATELY 40,000 MEN

American Destroyers Already Combating U-Boat—Making Preparations For a Military Census. New Forces to be Called.

Washington.—All three arms of America's fighting forces, the army, navy and marine corps, soon will be represented in the war zones.

With American destroyers already combating the U-boat menace in European waters, and army regulars concentrating to carry the flag to the battle lines in Belgium and France, a regiment of marines was designated today to join the expeditionary force and round out the nation's representation in the field.

The marines will be attached to the army division under General Pershing, which is under orders to proceed abroad as soon as practicable. Although details are not being made public, it was calculated that with the marine regiment, the total American force now designated for land service in Europe is close to 40,000. An army division at war strength comprises about 25,000 men, and upwards of 15,000 are expected to be in the nine volunteer regiments of engineers now being recruited. The forestry regiment and the marine regiment each will number more than 1,000. The strength of the naval force in European waters has not been revealed.

General Pershing and his staff will sail for Europe ahead of the troops, as there is much to be done on the other side to pave the way for final training of the force and for the huge army the United States is preparing to pour across the seas after it as rapidly as men can be trained and equipped. For obvious reasons, no information as to the time of the American commander's departure or his destination will be made public.

In all parts of the country state officials redoubled their efforts at recruiting the National Guard to war strength. Authorization reached them almost simultaneously with the signing of the army bill. The war department unfolded new elements of its plans for the guard, disclosing the departments in which each division will be trained.

Geographical Distribution.

A similar table of geographical distribution of divisions for the new selective army also was given out. It follows closely the lines of the National Guard divisions.

Distribution of the country by states into the areas that will provide the sixteen divisions of the selective draft army, as announced by the war department, include:

Fifth division—New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Eastern Department.

Sixth division—Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Southeastern Department.

Seventh division—Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Southeastern Department.

Eighth division—West Virginia, Central Department.

Twelfth division—Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Southeastern Department.

BRITISH SUFFER IN NAVAL BATTLE IN THE ADRIATIC

Cruiser Damaged and Fourteen Drifters Are Sunk.

London.—The British admiralty announced that 14 drifters had been sunk in a raid by Austrian light cruisers in the Adriatic Sea and that the British light cruiser Dartmouth was torpedoed in a subsequent engagement with the Austrian warships, but reached port safely.

The text of the statement reads:

"The admiralty announces that from reports received from the rear admiral commanding the Adriatic squadron, supplemented by the Italian official communication, it appears that early Tuesday morning an Austrian force consisting of light cruisers, subsequently reinforced by destroyers, raided the Allied drifter line and succeeded in sinking 14 British drifters from which, according to the Austrian communications, 73 prisoners were taken.

the booze game is in sight anyhow, with Prohibition and Local Option Laws being passed everywhere, and, for my part, I'm going to duck out of the business as soon as I get a chance."

Last Year's Forest Fires in Watauga Co.

The reports on forest fires during 1916 for the various townships of Watauga county have recently been received and compiled by the State Forester.

Twenty correspondents replied from 10 townships, and reported 17 fires which burned over 1,627 acres. It is estimated that 115,000 feet of merchantable timber were destroyed, valued at \$545; that 560 acres of young growth were burned over, valued at \$1,040. Other products and improvements destroyed by these fires, such as cordwood, lumber, fences, barns, etc., amounted to \$10,525. The total estimated loss reported from these fires was \$12,315. It is estimated that \$205 was spent in an effort to extinguish these fires.

A study of the causes of these fires show that 7 were set by burning brush, 3 by hunters, 2 by lumbering camps, 3 were of unknown origin, and 2 not specified.

The people of Watauga county cannot be indifferent to such losses, especially when those best informed upon the matter claim that most of these fires could have been prevented by proper measures.

When it is realized that one of the State's chief assets is her forests and that many of her principal industries are dependent upon the products of the forests. The jeopardizing not only of our present timber supply but also of our future supplies becomes a very serious matter. The establishment of an effective system of forest fire patrol by the State would do much toward eliminating the waste, and, in view of the fact that fires do not recognize county or township lines, such a system should be under State supervision. It is hoped that the people of Watauga county will become aroused to this situation and see to it that their Representatives in the next Legislature are alive to the importance of this question.

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AIRCRAFT POLICY IS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED.

Washington.—Formal announcement of the Government's policy as to all types of aircraft except Zeppelins was made by the Council of National Defense through Howard E. Coffin, member of the council's advisory commission and head of the aircraft production board, recently created.

The object aimed at for the first year, according to Mr. Coffin, is the production of a minimum of 3,500 training and battle aeroplanes; the education of from 5,000 to 6,000 aviators and the doubling or more of the producing capacity during the second year.

Other plans include the establishment of nine aviation training fields, three of which already have been selected by the War Department and construction work on which will begin at once. Each will provide for two aero squadrons of 150 men each and have hangars and shop equipment for 72 machines. It will cost approximately \$1,000,000 to equip each field. Six American colleges are to give cadet courses by July 1. The first classes opened May 10 and Prof. Hiram Bingham, of Yale University, is assigned at the War Department in charge of this instruction.

CLASH BETWEEN FRENCH AND GERMAN FLOTILLAS.

Paris.—French torpedo-boats had encounter with a German flotilla. An official statement says: "A patrol of four French torpedo-boats about 1 o'clock in the morning encountered a flotilla of German destroyers making toward port. After a brief engagement, the enemy flotilla at full speed in the direction of its base. Our four torpedo-boats returned. One of them suffered some damage."

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE VISITS ATLANTA

THOUSANDS ARE MADE HOMELESS WHEN FLAMES SWEEP RESIDENTIAL SECTION.

SEVENTY FIVE BLOCKS BURN

Estimates on Loss Vary Between Two and Three Million Dollars.—Soldiers Guard Stricken Section.—Dynamite Won Fight.

Atlanta, Ga.—Fire that swept through a large section of Atlanta from Decatur street north and northeast, cutting a clean swath of varying widths, finally was brought under control just before it reached the Atlanta baseball park.

The city is virtually under martial law administered by hundreds of soldiers who have been training at Fort McPherson or National Guardsmen in camp here acting under the direction of Col. Charles R. Noyes, U. S. A., who officially is under the guidance of the Chief of Police.

Thousands of homeless persons were being fed and housed in the Auditorium Armory, the Negro Odd Fellows' hall and in hundreds of private homes. The most of them saved only what they could carry, as household goods piled in the streets in advance of the flames were devoured in the rush of the conflagration.

For six hours dynamite was resorted to and it finally won the fight. Fire fighting apparatus sent from other cities was of some aid and will be of more as acre after acre of smoldering ruins await water to make them safe.

Only one death has been reported. Mrs. Hodges died of shock after her home burned. Sixty injured persons were taken to hospitals, but it was reported none was seriously hurt.

Approximately 75 blocks were devastated, but the area cannot be correctly estimated by blocks as after the fight at Ponce de Leon avenue the flames skirted that thoroughfare on the south side of the street for some distance.

Officials would not hazard a guess at the monetary loss. The destroyed buildings ranged all the way from shacks occupied by negroes to homes up to \$6,000 or \$8,000. Some estimates were between \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000, but they were neither from authoritative sources nor based on calculations to give them weight.

The blaze started in the Skinner Storage and Warehouse Plant near Decatur street, just east of Fort street, from a cause not determined. It quickly spread to the small houses nearby which were dry from lack of rain and driven by a high wind, started to rapidly eat its way north and northeastward.

GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY

Proposed to Congress By Federal Trade Commission.

Washington.—Government regulation of the coal industry, including the fixing of prices, was proposed by the Federal Trade Commission in a report to Congress charging producers and brokers with exacting exorbitant profits, and blaming the present coal shortage at consumption points on inadequate transportation facilities.

"The price of bituminous coal, which is a necessity, should be fixed," said the report, according to the same general principle which has been established in the conduct of public utilities. At a time like the present, excessive profits should not be permitted to be extorted from the public by producers and distributors of any prime necessity of life."

In line with the Trade Commission's statements concerning transportation, the supreme court handed down a decision upholding the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission to compel railroads to furnish a reasonably adequate supply of coal cars to handle normal and reasonable demands for interstate commerce originating at mines along their lines, and to award reparation to shippers for failure to supply cars.

SHARP CONTEST IN HOUSE OVER REVENUE BILL

Washington.—Two sharp contests during consideration of the war revenue bill in the house resulted in Southern members killing a proposed tax of \$2.50 a bale on raw cotton, and representatives from automobile manufacturing districts limiting the five per cent levy on automobiles, motorcycles and their tires to plants paying annual profits above \$5,000 and eight per cent on capital invested.

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